

Update on Hemp Policy Issues

Interim Joint Committee on Licensing & Occupations
October 15, 2026



Federal Update

Hemp Deadline Extension

In August, Congress extended the hemp deadline from November 12 to December 11, 2026

Proposed guardrails

Age gating to 21 and older

Mandated Good Manufacturing Practices

Mandated third-party lab testing

Bans on foreign imported hemp

Bans on synthetic hemp

Potency cap of THC per serving



State Regulatory Framework

On-Premise Sales

Restore on-premise sales of CIB's at bars, restaurants, and events

Allow hemp manufacturers to sample and sell beverages on-premise

Open Container Ban

Add CIB's to existing prohibitions on open containers of alcohol by operators of motor vehicles

Collaboration with Competing Industries

Find unity with stakeholders in regulated industries to find common ground in policy solutions

Support competition in the free market



Medicare CBD Pilot Program

In April 2026, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services launched the Substance Access Beneficiary Engagement Incentive (BEI) pilot program

Allows eligible Medicare enrollees to receive physician-guided, low-THC hemp-derived CBD products at no direct cost

Ensure that Kentucky's primary care providers and Accountable Care Organizations (ACO's) feel comfortable implementing this pilot program for the benefit of Kentucky seniors and hemp farmers

